

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is filed in compliance with the requirement in the Interview Summary, mailed on December 13, 2006 of the interview conducted on December 6, 2006, that the formal written reply to the last Office Action must include the substance of the interview.

Applicants' attorney, Michael I. Markowitz, (not Max Moskowitz, but under his supervision,) argued, based upon a draft response sent to the Examiner by facsimile on December 5, 2006, that the motivation stated by the Examiner to modify the cage of Barr, U.S. Patent No. 3,586,406, with the stub-shaped webs of Schaeffler et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,772,128, namely, holding the rollers within the cage pockets was not supportable, since Barr instead teaches both retaining surfaces 36 and an inwardly directed cylindrical raceway 21 restraining movement of the rollers in the radially inward and radially outward directions, respectively.

The Examiner said he would consider this argument upon Applicant filing a formal response, but further indicated that even if the argument is accepted, a new final rejection based solely upon anticipation by Schaeffler et al. could possibly issue. Applicants' attorney also read to the Examiner a concise statement of relevance of the references DE 19 03 801 and DE 10 09 445.

In a follow-up interview on December 21, 2006, the Examiner stated that, upon the formal filing of the response that had sent to the Examiner by facsimile on December 5, 2006, and with a requested additional statement that Barr already provides for means to prevent the rollers from moving radially inwardly so there is no need to add the stub-shaped webs of Schaeffler et al., the Examiner might allow the application.

The response sent to the Examiner by facsimile on December 5, 2006 is repeated here, with the additional statement requested by the Examiner during the follow-up interview on December 21, 2006, and the concise statement of relevance of the references DE 19 03 801 and DE 10 09 445, stated by the Examiner in the interview of December 6, 2006 is included in the formal response.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barr, U.S. Patent No. 3,586,406, in view of Schaeffler et al., U.S. Patent No. 2,772,128. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In support of the rejection, and apparently in support of the rejection of independent claim 1, the Examiner states that, "Barr discloses a cage for cylindrical rolling-contact elements in which at least two rolling-contact elements (26), that are in contact with one another at their lateral surfaces, are arranged in series in the circumferential direction in a pocket and each of the two rolling contact elements is guided parallel a cage axis by webs (32, 34, 36, 37) connecting adjoining side rings (31) to one another, wherein the webs, comprise sections (34, 36) that extend parallel to the cage axis ...," (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 2, lines 3-8). The Examiner further contends that, "Barr does not disclose stub-shaped webs on the side rings in the center of the pockets between the rolling-contact elements, but the prior art to Schaeffler et al. discloses the claimed stub-shaped webs (27, 28) used in combination with a roller bearing cage for holding the rollers within the cage pockets. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cage of Barr with stub-shaped webs, as taught by Schaeffler et al., motivation being to holding the rollers within the cage pockets," (Office Action, page 3, lines 1-7; emphasis supplied).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's analysis regarding the motivation to combine Schaeffler et al. with Barr. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no motivation for holding the rollers of Barr within the cage pockets to modify the cage of Barr with the stub-shaped webs of Schaeffler et al.

Barr explicitly teaches that retaining surfaces 36 interfere with the movement of the rollers radially inwardly,

"In the form of FIGS. 1 to 4, at points toward the midlength of the cage with respect to the guiding surfaces 34, the crossbars provide retaining surfaces 36 which are located substantially radially inwardly of the pitch circle, and which in effect form lips which interfere with movement of the rollers radially inwardly. The retaining surfaces or lips 36 are converging as they progress radially inwardly, the surfaces being either flat or following the curvature of the rollers as desired,"

(column 3, lines 33-40; emphasis supplied). The rollers ride in an inwardly directed cylindrical raceway 21, (column 2, lines 53-55; Figs. 1-4). The motivation by the Examiner to modify the cage of Barr with the stub-shaped webs of Schaeffler et al. does not exist since the rollers in Barr

are restrained from moving out of the cage pockets in both the outward and inward radial directions by the inwardly directed cylindrical raceway 21 and the retaining surfaces 36, respectively. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that it is not obvious for the cage of Barr to be modified with the stub-shaped webs of Schaeffler et al., contrary to the contention of the Examiner.

In accordance with the request of the Examiner in the telephonic interview of December 21, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that Barr already provides for means to prevent the rollers from moving radially inwardly so there is no need to add the stub-shaped webs of Schaeffler et al.

Since each of claims 3, 4, and 6 is directly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 3, 4, and 6 is allowable over Barr in view of Schaeffler et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Barr in view of Schaeffler et al.

In accordance with the request by the Examiner during the interview of December 6, 2006, that a concise statement of relevance of the references DE 19 03 801 and DE 10 09 445, which was expressed during that interview, be included in the formal response, that concise statement of relevance follows.

The only relationship of DE 19 03 801 with the claimed solution hereof is that two rolling elements are also installed in a pocket and that the webs are also parallel and at an angle to the axis of the cage. In contrast to the invention claimed herein, there are no web stumps in this prior publication, nor is the cage formed by rolling a profiled strip of sheet metal into a round shape.

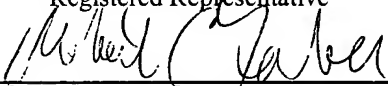
The only relationship of DE 10 09 445 with the claimed solution hereof is that two rolling elements are also installed in a pocket. In contrast to the invention claimed herein, there are no web stumps. The cage is not produced by bending a piece of profiled strip into a round shape. Instead, the cage is formed by a sleeve, which is drawn but not cut. Finally, the cage in the reference is not profiled, in contrast to the claimed invention, but rather the cage is cylindrical in form.

In view of the foregoing remarks, allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 29, 2006:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

December 29, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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